

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE WILDE—
ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker. It is at this moment that I would like to congratulate Debbie Wilde for receiving the ATHENA Award, in recognition of her commitment to helping women reach their full leadership potential. Mary is currently the director of Garfield Youth Services and her professional accomplishments, community efforts and youth activities deserve the recognition of this body.

Mary has played an important role in Garfield Youth Services' road to success. During her time with the organization, GYS has seen a tremendous growth in their staff and their membership. Currently, the youth organization provides more than 10 programs in which area youth and parents play an active role. One of Mary's most notable undertakings is the "Kiss-A-Pig" Contest, a contest that has seen an increase in proceeds for the organization from \$3,000 to \$100,000.

Mary has not only been instrumental in developing the Garfield Youth Services into a renowned organization, but she has also been very active in other facets of her community. As a resident of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Mary involves herself in church, school, and various recreational activities. She believes it is important to "be a servant" and credits her devotion and faith as the backbone to her public service.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate Mary for receiving the ATHENA Award and I commend her on her public involvement. It is a real pleasure to honor people of Mary's character. We are all very proud of you, Mary. Congratulations!

GEORGE PALKO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. George Palko upon receiving the Alumni Emerging Leadership Award from Cleveland State University. Mr. Palko is being recognized for his great engineering work and for his dedication as an educator at the Cleveland State University.

Mr. George Palko earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Fenn College of Engineering in 1988 and a master's of business administration from the College of Business Administration in 1993. Mr. George Palko is currently a resident of North Royalton.

Mr. George Palko has been engaged in the Cleveland State University's cooperative education program through which he has received training at the Great Lakes Construction Company. Upon graduating from college, Mr. Palko continued working for the Great Lakes Construction Company. As an in-house engineer and project engineer, Mr. Palko worked on many projects in the city of Cleveland. He has been superintendent of many ODOT projects, including the construction of interstate 90. In August 1997, Mr. Palko became president of the Great Lakes Construction Company.

Since Mr. Palko became president of the Great Lakes Construction Company the number of co-op students that the firm employs has quadrupled. In addition, Mr. Palko is teaching Construction Planning and Estimating at the Cleveland State University's Civil Engineering Department and he is a member of the College of Engineering's Visiting Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Palko's impressive career and wish him all the best as he continues his work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health emergency, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 292 through 321. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 292, 293, 294, 296, 297, 298, 300, 301, 304, 307, 313, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320 and "nay" on rollcall votes 295, 299, 302, 303, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 314, and 321.

CHURCH PLAN PARITY

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I support S. 1309, the Church Plan Parity and Entanglement Prevention Act. The purpose of this legislation is to clarify the status of church plans under state law and the status of a church welfare plan as a plan sponsored by a single employer. It also addresses the problem of health insurance issuers refusing to do business with church plans because of concern that church plans could be classified as unlicensed entities.

Most major religious denominations in the United States have established health, disability and pension plans for the employees of churches and church-controlled institutions. These church plans provide benefits that are critical to the welfare of the clergy and lay workers of each denomination. All Americans should have access to a viable health insurance plan. Just as the clergy plays a vital role in maintaining the spiritual health and well-being of our nation, it is equally important for us to give churches the tools they need in order to maintain the physical health and well-being of their clergy.

It is imperative that we pass this much needed piece of legislation. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting and preserving church health plans.

HONORING THOM PEABODY, L.S.
WOOD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Thom Peabody, a

man that has devoted his life to the community and to teaching. Mr. Peabody has been named the L.S. Wood teacher of the year. In recognition of this outstanding achievement, I would like to pay tribute to him today.

Mr. Peabody has been a seventh grade science teacher at the Riverside School, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, for twenty years. His enthusiasm for teaching is apparent when you only look at his students, and you see how much he has affected their passion for learning. One former student, Audrey Hughes, recalls Mr. Peabody in this way: "Mr. Peabody is an inspiration to me and many others as a teacher, coach, and a personal role model. This seventh grade science teacher had a way of teaching the material in an exciting, interesting way that made learning easy. Students have a great deal of respect for this man because he shows respect for them. Mr. Peabody emphasizes how hard work and perseverance pay off in the end and how education is a crucial part of life. Mr. Peabody is an example of the person I hope to become someday. He has touched so many lives and means so much to all that know him. I feel privileged to have had this man as such a large part of my life. Mr. Peabody is truly my hero".

After 20 years of dedicated service, Thom recently retired. Students, staff and the community will miss this man who has touched their lives in so many ways. During his tenure, he went above and beyond the teachers call of duty, serving his community and its youth well.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Peabody and his efforts to make his community a better place to live. We are all grateful for his service.

WILLIAM DENIHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William Denihan who is being awarded by Cleveland State University with the Alumni Award for Civic Achievement. Mr. Denihan is being recognized for his community leadership and his dedicated work for the betterment of his community.

People call Mr. Denihan a "leader's leader" because of his ability to anticipate major issues, to work as a "change agent" and conduct constructive process in order to handle major issues. For the past twenty years, Mr. Denihan has helped many prominent public leaders in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County and Ohio solve the toughest public problems.

Mr. Denihan has been selected by the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners to serve as executive director of the Department of Children and Family Services. Previously, Mr. Denihan has been appointed by Cleveland's Mayor Mike White to be Police Chief and Director of Public Safety. Former Governor Richard Celeste appointed Mr. Denihan to be director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Throughout his career, Mr. Denihan has been director of the city's Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Department of Highway Safety, chairman of the Nuclear Power